



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

June 25, 1998

### **H.R. 371**

### **Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act of 1998**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on June 17, 1998*

CBO estimates that implementing this legislation would cost less than \$500,000 annually in appropriated funds over the next two years. The bill also would affect direct spending, so pay-as-you-go procedures would apply, but the net effects would be negligible. H.R. 371 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not have a significant effect on state budgets. The bill would have no impact on local or tribal governments.

H.R. 371 would relax the naturalization requirements relating to English language proficiency and knowledge of civics for certain Laotians and their spouses. These persons, limited by the bill to no more than 45,000, would have to apply for citizenship within 18 months of the bill's enactment. The naturalization fee is \$120, so enacting H.R. 371 could increase fees collected by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) by up to \$5 million, mostly in fiscal years 1999 and 2000. We expect that the INS would spend the fees (without appropriation action), mostly in the year in which they are collected, so enacting H.R. 371 would result in a negligible impact on net spending by the INS.

This legislation would require the INS to consult with the Department of Defense (DoD) regarding the military service of each applicant for naturalization under the bill's provisions. We expect that DOD would spend less than \$500,000 annually on consultation.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Mark Grabowicz. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.